Ouachita Parish School System

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Meeting Minutes
Date: May 7, 2026
Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Location: Student Support Services

The meeting opened with a roll call for attendance. Those present: Jennifer L. Brinson, Angela Westerburg, Hope Miller, and Janet Bentley. Minutes from the February 26, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

Key Points Discussed:

- **Special Education Department Update & Focus:**
  - **Special Olympics:** The council celebrated the event held on April 10, 2026, at Wossman High School for grades 6-12 Special Education students.

- **Staff Training & Behavioral Support:** Discussions centered on training for both SpEd and GenEd teachers regarding classroom accommodations and behavioral supports.
  - **Staff Training:** Professional Development has been approved to take place at the back-to-school rally in August 2026.
  - **BCBA Recruitment:** It was reported that the department is currently conducting interviews for a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to provide dedicated behavioral support and expertise across the parish.

- **Distribution Progress: Pre-K Outreach:**
  - **Member Debrief:** Distribution of Pre-K screening clinic brochures and flyers to pediatric offices and community programs is underway.
  - **Action Item:** Members present agreed to distribute to additional locations.
  - **Materials Inventory:** Additional brochures and flyers are ready for pick-up.

- **Future Planning:**
    - **Transition Support:** To address parental feedback that moving between school levels is "overwhelming," the council discussed "Bridge" initiatives and "School Preview Days" to support transitions from Elementary to Middle and Middle to High school.
    - **Brainstorming:** Future priorities include deepening collaboration with Families Helping Families (FHF) and increasing visibility for student activities.

- **Next Steps & Closing Comments:**
    - **Upcoming Year Focus:** The strategic framework for “School Preview Days”.
    - **Returning Member Interest:** Applications for the 2026-2027 school year will be posted on the Special Education webpage.

- **Adjournment and Next Meeting:**
    - Next meeting TBD.
    - The meeting was adjourned.